

WE CLAIM:

1. An illuminated display apparatus, comprising:

a frame member having an exterior side, an interior side, an inner perimeter, and a center opening defined by the inner perimeter;

a housing mounted to the frame member and extending outward from the interior side of the frame member, the housing including:

a rear wall, the rear wall having an edge extending around the perimeter of the rear wall;

a side member having opposing ends, the first end mounted to the edge of the rear wall and the second end disposed adjacent the interior side of the frame member; and

a recessed area defined by the rear wall and the side member, wherein the recessed area has a depth sufficient for containing a three-dimensional object;

a light source mounted within the recessed area, the light source illuminating the three-dimensional object contained within the recessed area of the housing;

a transparent plate located within the center opening of the frame member, the transparent plate spaced apart from the rear wall of the housing; and

a power source conductively connected to the light source for illuminating the light source.

2. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1 further comprising means for supporting the three-dimensional object displayed within the recessed area of the housing.

3. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 2, wherein the means for supporting the three-dimensional object includes a shelf unit extending outward from the rear wall, the shelf unit having a width less than the depth of the recessed area of the housing.

4. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 2, wherein the means for supporting the three-dimensional object includes an adhesive material for mounting the object directly to the rear wall of the housing.

5. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a plurality of bracket members for mounting the housing to the interior side of the frame member, wherein the plurality of bracket members are attached to the side member of the housing and extend outward from the second end of the side member.

6. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the light source extends around the side member of the housing and is attached to the side member of the housing adjacent the interior side of the frame member such that the light source is not visible to a viewer.

7. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 6, wherein the light source is at least one fluorescent lamp.

8. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 6, wherein the light source is a flexible light strip comprising a plurality of illumination bulbs conductively connected to each other and encased by a heat resistant material for absorbing heat generated by the plurality of illumination bulbs.

9. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the center opening of the frame member and the transparent plate each have a length and width, and
wherein the length and width of the transparent plate are greater than the length and width of the center opening of the frame member.

10. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 9, wherein the interior side of the frame member further comprises a notch portion for retaining the transparent plate, the notch portion extending along the inner perimeter of the frame member.

11. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second end of the side member retains the transparent plate within the notch portion of the frame member.

12. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 9, wherein the inner perimeter of the frame member further comprises a groove portion for retaining the transparent plate, the groove portion extending along the inner perimeter of the frame member.

13. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transparent plate is a sheet of glass.

14. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transparent plate is a sheet of acrylic.

15. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the power source includes a battery housing mounted on the side member of the housing within the recessed area such that the power source is not visible to a viewer, the battery housing having a compartment for holding at least one battery therein for illuminating the light source.

16. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an alternating current power supply for illuminating the light source through a wall outlet instead of from the at least one battery.

17. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the power source includes a battery housing mounted within the recessed area of the housing such that the battery housing is not visible to a viewer, the battery housing having a compartment for holding at least one battery therein for illuminating the light source.

18. The illuminated display apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an alternating current power supply for illuminating the light source through a wall outlet instead of from the at least one battery.